

## French Social Classes in the Revolution & Empire: 1799-1815

Social Class	The "Age of Montesquieu" (Constitutional Monarchy) 1789-1792	The "Age of Rousseau" (Republic) 1792-1799	The "Age of Voltaire" (Napoleon) 1799-1815	Post-Napoleon
<b>Monarchy</b>	Power no longer absolute; Constitutional monarchy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King and queen executed</li> <li>Republic had no monarch</li> </ul>	Napoleon became emperor with absolute power	<u>Constitutional monarchy</u> ; Bourbons were restored
<b>Clergy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Civil Constitution of the Clergy made Church a dep't of the gov't</u></li> <li>Clergy members required to take an oath to the gov't</li> <li>Church lands confiscated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revolutionary Calendar replaced the Christian calendar</li> <li>The Cult of the Supreme Being further undermined the Catholic Church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Concordat of 1801 restored relations with the Catholic Church</u></li> <li>"Refractory clergy" reinstated while clergy loyal to the Revolution were removed</li> <li>Church was far weaker than in 1789</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Church never did regain the influence it had prior to 1789</u></li> </ul>
<b>Nobility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political influence eclipsed by the bourgeoisie</li> <li><u>Feudalism (seigneurialism) abolished</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imprisoned or fled the country as <i>émigrés</i> between 1791-95</li> <li>Later influence undermined the Directory</li> <li>In rural areas, patriotic nobles remained most politically and economically powerful group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many <i>émigrés</i> returned to France</li> <li>Increased influence in Napoleon's imperial nobility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant influence politically (though not as much as before 1789)</li> <li><u>Feudalism abolished since 1789</u></li> <li><u>Nobles continued to dominate rural areas</u></li> </ul>
<b>Middle Class (Bourgeoisie)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Took control of France in July, 1789</li> <li>Noble privileges abolished</li> <li><u>Declaration of the Rights of Man resulted in codification of political, social and civil rights</u></li> <li>Reforms in higher education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lost influence between 1792-95 as a result of the San culottes and the Reign of Terror</li> <li>Back in control during the Directory but under attack from the right and the left</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Constitution of 1799 did not guarantee human rights or liberty</u></li> <li>Political freedoms of bourgeoisie wiped away</li> <li>Some gained noble titles &amp; served in Napoleon's gov't</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Reduced influence until the Revolution of 1830</u></li> </ul>

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<b>Urban Working Class</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saw increased influence in Paris (e.g. storming of the Bastille)</li> <li>• <u>Guilds dissolved providing more job opportunities for artisans.</u></li> <li>• <u>Le Chapelier Law (1791) outlawed strikes, workers coalitions and assemblies</u></li> <li>• Bread was more affordable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San-culottes enjoyed major influence from 1791-95</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban on trade unions continued</li> <li>• Workers were restricted in their travel</li> <li>• Established reasonable prices for bread &amp; flour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Guilds remained illegal</u></li> <li>• Little influence until after 1830</li> <li>• Increased socialist influence during Revolution of 1848</li> </ul>
<b>Peasantry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Great Fear" resulted in some gains for the peasantry</li> <li>• Feudalism abolished</li> <li>• Wealthy peasants bought confiscated church lands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land gains remained but lords continued to hold the most political and economic power in rural areas</li> <li>• Heavily taxed by the Republic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Napoleon supported the ban on feudalism</li> <li>• Indirect taxation was as bad as during the Old Regime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wealthier peasants were only group to improve between 1799 and 1815</li> <li>• Rural poor gained little from the Revolution</li> </ul>
<b>Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women influential in March on Versailles and in San-Culottes</li> <li>• Gained equal right to divorce as men in 1792</li> <li>• Workshops in cities employed more poor women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's political clubs closed by Jacobins by 1793-94</li> <li>• Reign of Terror also targeted certain women (e.g. Olympe de Gouges)</li> <li>• Directory in 1795 disbanded women's workshops and urged women to tend to their homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce laws rewritten to favor husbands</li> <li>• Gains in inheritance and property rights were removed</li> </ul>	Women essentially gained little from the Revolution (although their actions did inspire future reformers)